

When we  
to Thomas G.  
TELEPHONE 55.  
TELEGRAMS:  
"KING'S HEAD, CIRENCESTER."  
Mr. G. B. Ransom  
you truly  
yours

ilplpnen35

King's Head Hotel,  
CIRENCESTER.

ap 26 1920

Mr Ransom  
kind for him  
Oxford

Dear Miss Mason  
This is a very hilly country for  
a motor car to struggle with.  
but some of these schools of  
the household's have got the  
root of the matter in them  
I went this morning to the  
Painswick School <sup>about 100 girls</sup> which has been  
using your one that for 2 years  
Miss Kirkland is a very pleasant  
sensible & ladylike business trip  
she comes from Leicester & after

30 years & more than had got so tired  
 of the apparently useless methods of  
 teaching that she thought she could  
 go on no longer but now she  
 is ready to do another 30 years  
 she has a <sup>young</sup> chosen teacher & another  
 kindly but not very efficient & her children  
 though taking an evident delight in their  
 work did not manage well but she is new  
 to the work & will improve. The little girls

Monthly 7 yrs old were a remarkably good-  
 looking lot of children & with very  
 nice manners. The 2 older  
 boys who had lately begun to read the play  
 I went into the omnibus through the play  
 & they were moved by the trial  
 scene & the Carrots (found)  
 Lamented for the good fun & sky rocks  
 lamentations over his lost jewels also  
 Miss K said nothing would induce any of the



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teaches to pack to  
 the old method. - this  
 they all say - say with emphasis  
 she showed some Dolls about as  
 big as week old babies which the  
 kids had done. Making all the  
 clothes themselves and even making  
 the hems of kink sateen (or sateen which is it)  
 & both fingers & toes were  
 beautifully done with the little  
 pink toenails which Swinburne  
 professed to adore but he does  
 not speak convincingly to my mind  
 after 12 he had a dreamy next

4 il p4 pneu 35

Mr Ransom want a consignment  
but I had to sit a "thole" it,  
for the afternoon school day  
not open till 2.

This was at the Mixed School  
at Stroud Uplands. Where  
there are about 230 boys & girls.  
A very able & earnest man  
is the head, one E. H. Smith  
He speaks with no uncertain sound  
of the extraordinary influence <sup>on the children</sup> in  
all they do <sup>which</sup> the teaching by the  
humanities exercises. Everything  
they take up even the needlework  
shows it. I read several papers  
of the same just finished  
a boy of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  had written an excellent

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account of what led up to  
 the attack by Spain &  
 the armada & the whole fight.  
 B. of 8½ expressed himself  
 so clearly & with such good  
 language that his work might  
 have been taken for that of a  
 lad of 14 and the writing  
 was quite excellent. I suppose  
 correct. I saw the boy who  
 looked very high but pretends  
 that he can't narrate. I suppose  
 the Mr. Smith is one of the best

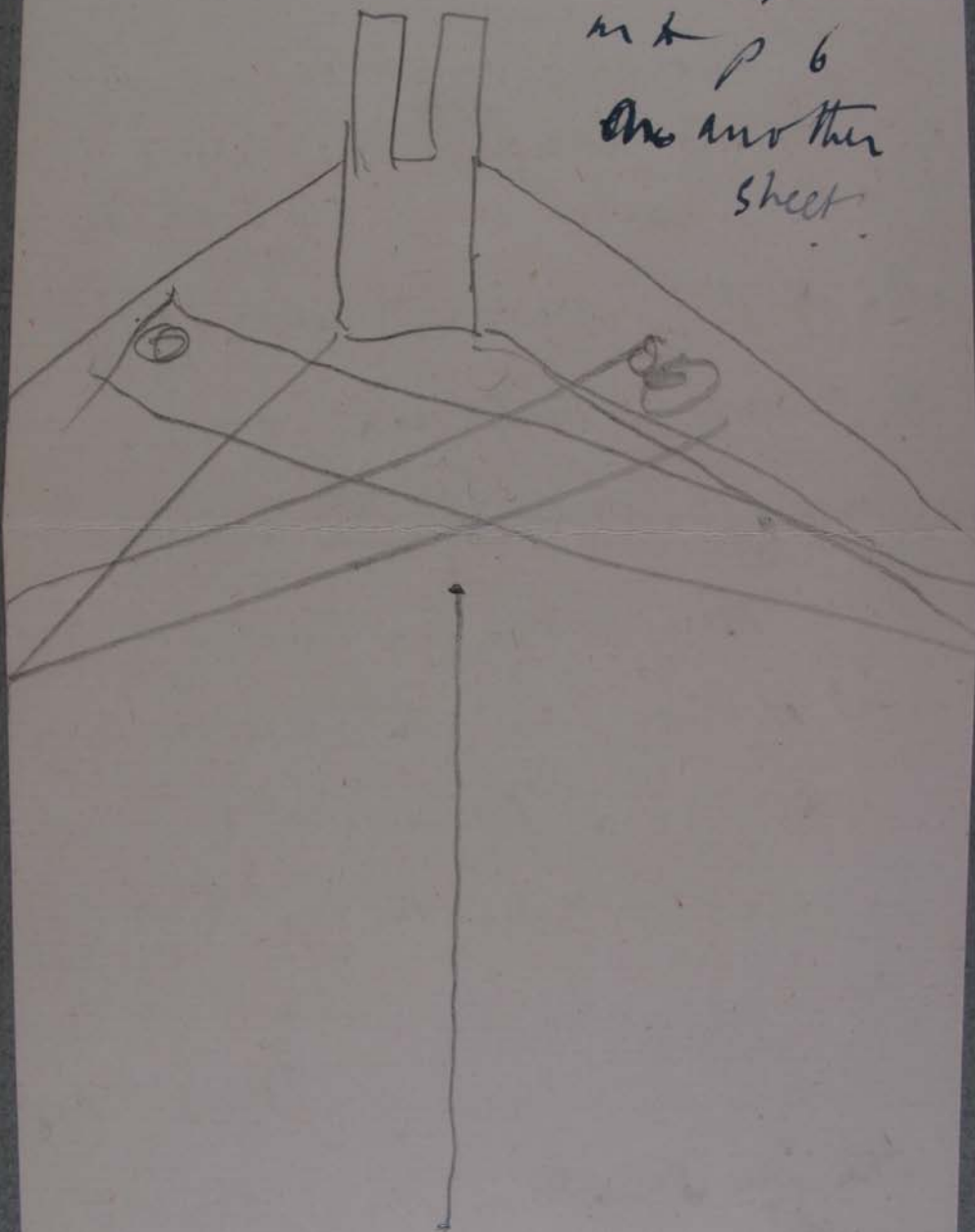


i1 p6 pneu 35

Sorry to see this  
pneu thing! we will prep

in to p 6

one another  
sheet



6

ilp7pneu35

TELEPHONE 55.

TELEGRAMS:

"KING'S HEAD, GIRENCESTER."

King's Head Hotel,

GIRENCESTER.

When we could have  
 had to make the matter  
 so. He has been 2 years  
 at it but must have been  
 in advance of most of his  
 fellows before he took it up.  
 I read to his upper classes at  
 the University of Venice, and  
 he got away before he  
 came on here having  
 left Gloucester this morning  
 some 80 to 2 small boats

a few cents put on Mr  
Bourke I think it would  
encourage them. They have already been  
agreed using the system.

Then I visit a big girl school  
the Waterman School in Cincinnati  
& so pass away to Oxford.

Prof K. at Pariswick asked the  
girls if they knew who to send a  
message by me to you & all  
the hands went up at once &  
they sent you 2 or 3 nice messages  
& thanks which I feel sure you  
will be glad to have & to know  
that they really appreciate what  
your mother has done & is doing  
for them.



7 Royal Avenue, Whiteley 12 p 1 pneu 35  
May 6. 1920.

My dear Lady Campbell,

You are much in our thoughts.  
Both one you felt your own boy in  
your sudden trouble, & we wish you  
support & help, & the personal help  
which always comes in along the  
road!

As for things here fine very well.  
Better have an excellent address  
the first day evening, & up at the  
Abbey next morning & a glorious run  
shone on us, & old Chancellor Austin  
spoke most notably about St Hilda,  
& all she had done for education  
& her own spot.

Miss Parish's arrangements for English  
are perfect, & she is very much on the  
spot. Only about 100 children  
have come, & the whole atmosphere  
though delightful is entirely different  
from that of Winchester.  
This new happy time too, & why?

Last night we had the greatest  
feast of all in the magnificent paper  
from Miss Felling a primary school

teacher from Pennsylvania. He  
 was a simple plain woman from  
 the country, modestly dressed. who  
 stood up & gave the very best  
 exposition of P. U. S. teaching  
 one ever heard. The wonder  
 of us all, healthless, & the appearance  
 afterwards was tremendous. I  
 felt with you had heard it. How  
 you would have clapped! How  
 unpeakable delightful to have  
 such a paper from a quite com-  
 plete outsider. If she had been  
 asked in Amherst for years she  
 could not have been better!  
 Mr. Wright too, the husband from  
 Dublin who came after himself,  
 also knew quite well what he was  
 talking about, & fully appreciated  
 what the P. U. S. had done for his  
 recovers.

Yours dear Lady Campbell  
 with love  
 affectionately  
 Helen Webb.

P.S. Hello to  
 all the  
 friends  
 who  
 are  
 well

## Gloucestershire Education Committee.

Uplands C. School,  
Stroud.  
May 12<sup>th</sup> 1920

Dear Miss Kitching,

The teachers of the schools in Glo. working by Mrs. Mason's methods & to her programmes are having a Conference in the Shire Hall on June 12<sup>th</sup> next.

Mr. Household is undertaking the task of organising & arranging the proceedings, & it is arranged that I should read a paper on the Geography as studied in all the forms. This is a



subject in which many  
feel that some alteration,  
both in amount of matter  
& a re-grouping of pages  
might with advantage be  
made.

<sup>13 p 2, p neu 35</sup>  
You will appreciate  
that I have undertaken a  
task of some size. But I  
must do it thoroughly, &  
you may rest assured that  
iconoclasm will not be  
motif of my theme. I do  
not feel that it is at all  
necessary to take up a  
destructive critical attitude.  
Besides, if I did, I  
should make a hard fight  
to preserve the integrity of  
the syllabus as a whole.

Gloucestershire Education Committee.

School,

19

I am making an analysis,  
not only of the work as  
arranged per term, its continuing  
etc., but also of the subject  
matter.

In reading the preface  
to Bks. I & II Mrs. Mason  
says that "children should  
go through the Book wise"  
(Bk I) and, "they should be  
able to <sup>answer</sup> ~~read~~ all these  
questions after the second  
reading." (ii) Mr. Housebold & I  
were discussing that point  
this week & we each had  
the same thought. That it  
was, apparently, a contradiction

13P4 pncu 35  
to Mrs. Mason's contention  
that once reading was  
sufficient, & that revision  
was unnecessary.

I should like Mrs.  
Mason's authoritative  
opinion, & personal  
explanation of that point,  
so that I may be in a  
position to answer any  
formal objection, or to set  
upright a waverer.

Then in Bk III, Mrs.  
Mason states that "this  
book is designed to afford  
a three years' course of  
reading for children between  
eight & eleven, or nine & twelve"  
and that "Bk. II should  
afford the second weekly  
lesson". In our programmes  
I cannot find Bk II prescribed  
in conjunction with Bk III.



Gloucestershire Education Committee.

Form II A Asks can cover Book III School, \_\_\_\_\_  
in 37<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 19

The year's study of Bk. iii by Form II A does not cover the whole of the study of England from that Book.

I point out this, not in any spirit of little criticism, but as showing that there are grounds for doubt, if not alarm, in the minds of many teachers.

Be it state schools, have not the same freedom for elasticity of treatment as in Home Schools or Private Secondary Schools.

But I hope to be able to effect some re-arrangement & submit the same to the

13 p 6 pneu 35  
consideration, first of  
Mr. Huxford, & secondly  
to the Conference, in my  
paper.

I hope that you  
may be able to give me  
some further information  
on the points I overraised,  
and if Miss Mason has  
anything to say on the subject  
of Geography which I could  
pass on to my fellow workers,  
I will gratefully receive it.

Yours truly,  
G. H. Smith

P.S. I had an interesting  
visit from Mr. W. F. Rawley  
a fortnight ago.

## Gloucestershire Education Committee.

School,

19

Dear Mrs. Kitching,

Since writing the first letter I have thought of something else which I have intended to ask for a long time.

Do you have a school of your own at Auklands, I believe. Would you please tell me the average age of the children working in Forms i B, i A, ii B, ii A, iii, iv (These five forms are at work in my school).

If you have no forms in the lowest grade, probably you know the average of E in those forms in some primary



schools.

13 p8 pneu 35

I have an idea that the difficulties experienced in some of the smaller schools in Glo. are the result of a wrong classification. I am not a believer in classification by age purely. I'm too much of a heretic for that. If Jessy Jones, 10 yrs old, can hold her place & do the work of a grade Mary Brown of 13, then Jessy & Mary must be fellow students.

But Miss Maxon's programmes prescribe more work & of a higher standard than the syllabuses usually issued by heads or local K.F.A.s. And I feel that some re-adjustment of standard is necessary.

I hope I am not a nuisance but Miss Maxon knows best.

Yours truly,  
G. H. Smith